

**What is claimed is:**

1. An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the cargo box cover having a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall, an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail and further having a cover fixedly attached along said tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

- a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;
- a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and
- an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

2. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

3. An adjustable assembly as in claim 2 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block sections.

4. An adjustable assembly as in claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

5. An adjustable assembly as in claim 4 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

6. An adjustable assembly as in claim 5 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

7. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

8. An adjustable cover for a cargo box that comprises upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

20 a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall;

25 an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail;

30 a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;

35 a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and

40 an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

9. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

10. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 9 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

11. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

12. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 11 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

13. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 12 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail, and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

15. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of 5 upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending 10 walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

15 left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

20 an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail;

25 left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

30 left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms

35 include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning 40 rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket

45 mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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16. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 15, wherein the tensioning rail includes a tensioning rail attachment chamber and each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members is engaged within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

17. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 16, wherein each of said left and right tensioning rail attachment members extends below the side rail with which it is engaged such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rails when the attachment members are engaged with the respective side rails.

18. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 15, wherein each of the pair of threaded screw members is engaged in coaxially aligned, reciprocally threaded openings in each of the respective side rail attachment bracket mechanisms.

19. (New) An adjustable cover assembly for a cargo box, the cargo box including upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

a tonneau cover having forward and rearward ends;

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an elongate tensioning rail having  
left and right ends, said elongate  
tensioning rail extending from said  
left side rail to said right side rail, the  
5 forward end of the tonneau cover  
being secured to the elongate  
tensioning rail;

10 left and right side rail attachment  
bracket mechanisms connected with  
said left and right side rails,  
respectively; and

15 left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members engaged with  
said tensioning rail; wherein each of  
said left and right side rail  
attachment bracket mechanisms  
include a threaded screw member,  
20 and each of the threaded screw  
members are positioned and  
arranged such that a force can be  
placed on the elongate tensioning  
rail by each of the threaded screw  
25 members as said screw member is  
adjustably manipulated to drive the  
tensioning rail away from the  
respective attachment bracket,  
thereby placing greater tension on  
30 the tonneau cover.

20. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 19, wherein the  
tensioning rail includes a tensioning  
35 rail attachment chamber and each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members is engaged  
within the tensioning rail attachment  
chamber.

40 21. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 20, wherein each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members extends below  
45 the side rail with which it is engaged  
such that the tensioning rail is

5 restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rails when the attachment members are engaged with the respective side rails.

10 22. (New) The adjustable assembly of claim 19, wherein each of the pair of threaded screw members is engaged in coaxially aligned, reciprocally threaded openings in each of the respective side rail attachment bracket mechanisms.

15 23. (New) An apparatus for varying the position of an end rail of a tonneau cover attachment frame used to secure a tonneau cover to a pickup truck cargo box, the attachment frame including at least one end rail and opposing left and right side rails, the tonneau cover being secured to the end rail, the apparatus comprising:

20 a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block mechanism being attached to one of said side rails; and

25 a first tensioning screw, the first tensioning screw operatively connected to the first adjustment block mechanism and movable with respect thereto, with the first tensioning screw configured and arranged to operatively contact the end rail; wherein movement of the first tensioning screw with respect to the first adjustment block mechanism, in a direction toward the end rail, varies the position of the end rail with respect to the respective side rail.

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24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the first tensioning

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5        screw is movable in a direction  
          generally parallel to the side rail and  
          wherein the end rail is slidably  
          engaged with the opposing left and  
5        right side rails and movable with  
          respect thereto in a generally  
          orthogonal, constrained manner.

10      25. (New) The apparatus of claim  
          23, further comprising a second  
          adjustment block mechanism, the  
          adjustment block mechanism being  
          attached to the other of said left and  
          right side rails, and

15      15        a second tensioning screw,  
          the second tensioning screw  
          operatively connected to the second  
          adjustment block mechanism and  
          movable with respect thereto, with

20      20        the second tensioning screw  
          configured and arranged to  
          operatively contact the end rail;  
          wherein movement of the second  
          tensioning screw with respect to the

25      25        second adjustment block  
          mechanism, in a direction toward  
          the end rail, varies the position of  
          the end rail with respect to the other  
          side rail.

30      30      26. (New) The apparatus of claim  
          25, wherein the second tensioning  
          screw is movable in a direction  
          generally parallel to the side rail.

35      35      27. (New) An apparatus for  
          shifting the position of a slideable  
          end rail of a tonneau cover  
          attachment frame that includes at

40      40      least one end rail and parallel left  
          and right side rails, the tonneau  
          cover being attached to the end rail,  
          wherein the end rail is slidably  
          connected to the parallel left and

45      45      right side rails and movable with  
          respect thereto in a generally

orthogonal, constrained manner, the apparatus comprising:

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right side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the right side rail wherein the end rail is slidingly engaged with the parallel left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a constrained manner.

29. (New) The shifting apparatus of Claim 28, wherein each of the first and second adjustment block mechanisms include a threaded screw members that is positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the end rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the end rail away from the respective adjustment block mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

30. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

40 left and right side rails connected to said left and right walls, respectively;

45 an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said

left side rail to said right side rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the elongate tensioning rail;

5 left and right side rail attachment block mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

10 left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks engaged with said left and right ends of said elongate tensioning rail, respectively, and each slidably engaging the respective side rail proximate the respective ends of the elongate tensioning rail such that the elongate tensioning rail is slidably engaged with the opposing

15 left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a generally orthogonal, constrained manner; wherein the left and right side rail attachment block mechanisms

20 include left and right screw members adjustably contacting said tensioning rail.

25 31. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly

30 extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

35 attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover

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adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

32. (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension

on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail and positioned and arranged to sliding secure the elongate tensioning rail to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably

manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

5       manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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